



Chris Christie, Governor

James T. Plousis, Chairman

NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD

Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor

Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., Vice Chairman

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



**SUPPORTING OFFENDER REHABILITATION
TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY**



David W. Thomas
Executive Director



James T. Plousis
Chairman



Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr.
Vice Chairman

MISSION

The New Jersey State Parole Board is committed to promoting public safety and fostering rehabilitation of offenders by implementing policies that result in effective parole case management.

VISION

To improve the safety of the public and the quality of life in New Jersey by administering an innovative parole system that addresses the needs of the community, victims, and offenders through a responsible decision-making process that provides every available opportunity for successful offender reintegration.



State of New Jersey
NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

KIM GUADAGNO
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES T. PLOUSIS
CHAIRMAN

SAMUEL J. PLUMERI, JR.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

May 20, 2013

The Honorable Chris Christie
Governor, State of New Jersey
The State House
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

I am pleased to submit the New Jersey State Parole Board's FY 2012 Annual Report. The State Parole Board has taken its responsibility for public safety very seriously and we continue to administer an effective parole system.

With responsible parole decision making and the reintegration of offenders into society by utilizing evidence based practices, the State Parole Board strives to sustain reductions in recidivism. We continue to partner with local, state, and federal law enforcement as well as community based organizations to acquire resources necessary for successful reentry into the community.

During the past year, the State Parole Board has undertaken a comprehensive review of its policies and procedures to seek accreditation by the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police. This accreditation will improve the agency's operational effectiveness and the delivery of services to our offender population. We have also continued to enhance programs and initiatives such as the Parole Employment Placement Program, Parole Volunteer Program and the Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative. It is our goal to be recognized as one of the leading paroling authorities in the nation.

The FY 2012 Annual Report is the result of the efforts of the Associate Board Members, sworn parole officers and the civilian staff who perform their duties and responsibilities with the highest level of professionalism and dedication.

Respectfully Submitted,

James T. Plousis
Chairman

**NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Chairman: James T. Plousis

Vice-Chairman: Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr.

Executive Director: David W. Thomas

Deputy Executive Director: Lawrence J. Gregorio

Associate Board Members:

Brian T. Butch
Allen DelVento
Reni Erdos
Carmen M. Garcia
Thomas Haaf
Lloyd D. Henderson
Mary Hunt
James B. Jefferson
Charlie Jones
Julio Marenco
Robert Riccardella
Norman Robertson
Yolette C. Ross

Alternate Board Members:

Hope L. Cooper
Oscar Doyle
Laurie Fuchs



DIVISION OF RELEASE

The New Jersey Parole Act of 1979 (N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.45, et seq.) places with the State Parole Board the authority and responsibility of deciding which state and county inmates shall be granted release on parole and the special conditions of parole that will be imposed.

The Division of Release, operating out of Central Office, has offices in each state correctional facility. The primary function of the Division of Release is to evaluate and assess incarcerated adult offenders and determine their eligibility and appropriateness for parole release. The Division of Release prepares each case for consideration for the members of the Board by securing professional reports concerning an inmate's criminal history, including his/her current offense; their social,

physical, educational, psychological progress to date; and their objective social and psychological risk and needs assessment. An assigned hearing officer conducts the initial parole consideration hearing.

STATE INMATE PAROLE STATISTICS

Initial Hearing	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Scheduled	12,637	11,128	10,495
Conducted	10,662	9,658	8,982
Parole Recommended	571	331	254
Deferred	153	139	134
Referred to Panel	9,938	9,188	8,594
Two- Member Panels	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Scheduled	10,835	10,024	9,045
Decided	10,083	9,355	8,468
Deferred	43	59	40
Parole Denied	5,144	5,255	4,816
Parole Granted	4,939	4,100	3,652
Three-Member Panels	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Decided	62	27	53
Parole Denied	62	27	53
Parole Granted	0	0	0
Full Board Panels	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Decided	7	7	3
Parole Denied	4	6	2
Parole Granted	3	1	1
Administrative Reviews	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Reviewed	524	276	219
Parole Denied	57	75	78
Parole Granted	466	197	140
Other	1	4	1
Total Paroled	5,408	4,298	3,793

COUNTY INMATE PAROLE STATISTICS

Initial Hearings	FY 2010*	FY 2011*	FY 2012*
Scheduled	36	48	3
Conducted	36	48	3
Parole Recommended	35	46	3
Deferred	0	0	0
Referred to the Panel	1	2	0
Panel Hearings	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Scheduled	3,680	3,715	3,287
Decided	2,593	2,711	2,420
Deferred	4	18	4
Parole Denied	749	998	823
Parole Granted	1,844	1,695	1,597
Not Feasible	1,087	1,004	863
Administrative Reviews	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Reviewed	35	46	3
Parole Denied	0	0	0
Parole Granted	35	46	3
Total Paroled	1,879	1,741	1,600

* Beginning in 2008 county inmates were given the option to waive their initial hearing and proceed to a panel hearing. This reflects the reduction in the number of initial hearings scheduled, conducted and parole recommended statistics above.

VICTIM INPUT UNIT

The Victim Input Unit is committed to the privacy, safety and well-being of all victims of crime and encourages their participation in the parole process. Effective July 11, 1984, when an adult is convicted of a first or second degree crime, the County Prosecutor must notify the victim of that crime - or nearest relative of a murder victim - of their right to provide information to the State Parole Board before the offender's parole consideration. This notification is in writing and includes a form, which the victim should use to register their interest in providing information to the Board. Regardless of the degree of the crime, all victims have the right to participate in the parole process.

When a victim registers with the State Parole Board's Victim Input Unit, staff will confirm the victim's registration and monitor the offender's parole eligibility. In this way, contact with the victim will occur in advance of the offender's parole eligibility. Prior to the time of eligibility, the victim will be contacted and invited to either submit a written statement, videotaped statement, or appear personally to provide a statement.

If the victim chooses to provide a statement in person, a hearing will be scheduled, and every effort will be made to accommodate the victim in scheduling. Most victim input hearings will take place at the State Parole Board's Central Office in Trenton, but in special situations - such as where the victim is physically disabled - it may be possible to conduct the hearing elsewhere or via video teleconferencing.

REVOCATION UNIT

The Revocation Unit is responsible for conducting probable cause and final parole revocation hearings to determine if a parolee has violated the terms and conditions of his or her parole. The Revocation Unit hearing officers make formal recommendations to members of the Board concerning parole violations. These recommendations include whether or not a parolee should have their parole status revoked and be returned to prison or if the terms and conditions of their parole should be modified in some fashion.

REVOCATION UNIT STATISTICS

Adult and Young Adult Statistics	FY 2010	FY2011	FY 2012
Revocation Decisions	2,328	2,408	2,368
Continued on Parole	493	506	368
Revoked Term	770	801	987
Revoked Re-Paroled	3	0	1
Revoked Serving MAX	953	988	876
Revoked Serving MSV	106	110	136
Revoked Other	3	3	0

APPEALS UNIT

An inmate or parolee may appeal any action of a Board Member, hearing officer, unit, or division of the State Parole Board. The Appeals Unit processes administrative appeals and insures that the appeal submitted by an inmate or parolee is presented to and reviewed by a Board Panel or the Board.

APPEALS UNIT STATISTICS

Appeals Processed	FY2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Full Board Appeals	1,034	1,178	1,422
Other	444	395	375

LEGAL SUPPORT UNIT

The Legal Support Unit provides assistance to Board Members and agency staff thereby assuring that they function in accordance with statutory provisions and administrative regulations. The Legal Support Unit also assists the Board in the development and implementation of policies; the development and promulgation of amendments to the agency's administrative code; the pursuing of clarification of sentencing matters that impact on the Board's functions; the review and processing of complex cases; the review of the imposition of special conditions in the cases of certain offenders and the presentation of said cases to Board Members for review; and providing assistance to counsel assigned by the Division of Law to represent the State Parole Board in any legal matter involving the Board or agency staff.

An offender may be eligible to obtain a Certificate of Good Conduct and/or a Certificate Suspending Certain Employment, Occupational Disabilities or Forfeitures to assist in obtaining public employment or employment involving licensure. The Legal Unit processes such applications for presentation and consideration by the full Board. In addition, this Unit investigates and processes applications for medical parole for consideration by an Adult Panel.

LEGAL SUPPORT UNIT STATISTICS

Types of Cases Processed	FY 2011	FY 2012
Community Supervision for Life	252	205
Electronic Monitoring	224	291
Curfews	117	114

JUVENILE UNIT

The Juvenile Unit operates within the Division of Release. The Unit is assigned two Panel Members, who function as the Board's Juvenile Panel. The Juvenile Panel performs quarterly reviews for the juveniles incarcerated in secure and residential facilities managed by the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission. For each juvenile entering a secure or residential facility, the Juvenile Panel conducts an initial review, establishes time goals, monitor and assess the juvenile's overall progress and community suitability during routine follow-up review sessions. Based on these reviews, the Juvenile Panel may render one of the following decisions: continue confinement, defer release for review at a future date, refer the juvenile to the Adult Panel, have the juvenile serve the maximum sentence, or grant the juvenile a release to parole supervision or Post Incarceration supervision. The Juvenile Unit is responsible for processing all revocation and rescission hearings for the juvenile offenders.

JUVENILE UNIT STATISTICS

Juvenile Panel Statistics	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Time Goals	535	507	342
Quarterly Reviews	1,807	1,739	1,453
Annual Reviews	219	206	164
Continued Confinement	1,677	1,702	1,401
MAX	283	212	207
Deferred	31	31	16
PDS	281	267	249
Referred to Adult Panel	4	0	1
Parole Approved	256	265	191

DIVISION OF PAROLE

The Division of Parole is managed by a command staff consisting of a Director, Captains (Supervising Parole Officers-SPO), Lieutenants (District Parole Supervisors-DPS) and Sergeants (Assistant District Parole Supervisors-ADPS). The community supervision of offenders is the responsibility of sworn parole officers. The Division of Parole is one of New Jersey's largest police agencies and consists of fifteen operational units statewide, of which ten are District Parole Offices (DPO). The remaining operational units include: the Electronic Monitoring Unit (EMU), the Office of Interstate Services (OIS), the Special Operations Group (SOG), the Training Unit, the Sex Offender Management Units (SOMU) and the Investigations Management Office (IMO). The IMO is responsible for processing all new criminal charges filed by the State Parole Board's law enforcement staff. The processing includes maintaining and forwarding as discovery the official investigation reports. In addition to processing all new charges, IMO handles all evidence control functions for any and all criminal related evidence. This includes, but is not limited to, transporting evidence to the State Police lab and conducting forensic searches of computers and other electronic data storage/transmittal devices. Lastly, IMO staff act as the coordinator of all State Parole Board fingerprint live scan machines.

In addition to their supervision duties, a number of the parole officers serve as members of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and/or the U.S. Marshals Service New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force. All parole officers partner with local and state investigations as needed.

At the end of FY 2012, there were 16,155 offenders supervised by the Division of Parole. The offenders supervised include:

- * Offenders released at the discretion of a Board Panel;
- * Offenders released to serve a period of mandatory supervision under the No Early Release Act;
- * Sex offenders sentenced to community life time supervision under Megan's Law;
- * Court ordered conditional discharge cases released from the Special Treatment Unit; and
- * Tier III sex offenders subject to mandatory GPS monitoring.

DIVISION OF PAROLE STATISTICS

Offender Supervision	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Parole and Community Supervision for Life	3,937	5,067	5,320
GPS Monitoring	225	301	324
General Parole Supervision	8,800	10,081	10,280
Electronic Monitoring	400	236	231
Total Number Supervised	15,929	15,685	16,155

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DIVISION

The Division of Community Programs provides oversight to the State Parole Board contracted community partners who, under existing contract agreements provide residential and non-residential transitional rehabilitative programs to offenders under parole supervision. These programs include: Stages to Enhance Parolee Success (STEPS), Reentry Substance Abuse Program (RESAP), Community Resource Centers (CRC), the Mutual Agreement Program (MAP) and a number of programs for specialized populations. The programs are designed to promote public safety, sustainable reintegration of parolees into society and reduce recidivism.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

Contracted Residential Community Program	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Mutual Agreement Programs (MAP)	82	153	214
Stages to Enhance Parolee Success (STEPS)	2,026	1,700	1,627
Reentry Substance Abuse Programs (RESAP)	903	889	591
Regional Assessment Centers (RAC)	537	561	399
Total Residential Placements	3,548	3,303	2,831
Non-residential Community Programs	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Community Resource Centers (CRC)	3,485	2,797	2,258

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

During FY 2012, the State Parole Board strengthened existing programs/initiatives, developed and implemented a number of new partnerships with both state and federal agencies and organizations to enhance New Jersey's offender reentry efforts. These partnerships have proven effective in helping ex-offenders succeed during the transition from prison to the community.



ACCREDITATION

The State Parole Board is pursuing law enforcement accreditation through the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of improving overall performance. The foundation of accreditation lies in the adoption of standards containing a clear statement of professional

objectives that are conceptually sound and operationally effective. Accreditation status represents a significant professional achievement.

The rigorous standards set forth by the Chiefs of Police have so far resulted in many positive changes in agency policy and operations. 33 policies, some revised and some entirely new, have been reviewed by the Board policy committee, approved by the Board, and issued by the Chairman.

Areas of significant change include the comprehensive hiring process for new recruits; the creation of the evidence room and Investigation Management Office; and the development of a multi-functional communications log.

PAROLEE EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAM (PEPP)

In 2011, the State Parole Board and Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD) partnered to leverage resources to maximize the potential for parolees to successfully transition to employment. The Parolee Employment Placement Program (PEPP) was created in an effort to reduce recidivism rates, improve the level of employment services and placements provided to parolees, and provide reimbursement to employment providers only upon the securing and maintenance of employment benchmarks.

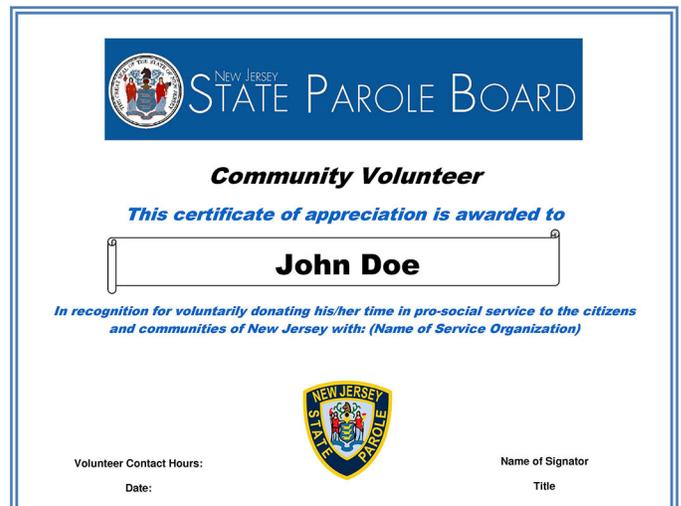
The program was launched in February, 2012. As of June 30, 2012 the Department of Labor has confirmed that the three employment provider agencies: Blessed Ministries covering the Northern Region, Shiloh Community Development Center covering the Central Region, along with the Mid-Atlantic State Career and Education Center covering the Southern Region, have either achieved or exceeded the employment performance benchmarks established by the Department of Labor.



As part of the PEPP program, parolees learn resume writing, interviewing skills and internet job search techniques.

PAROLEE VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE

In an effort to provide parolees with an opportunity to give back to the communities in which they reside and at the same time improve their chances of obtaining gainful employment, in 2011 under the leadership of Chairman Plousis, the State Parole Board created the Parolee Volunteer Initiative. The initiative provides parolees with an opportunity to volunteer at non-profit service organizations serving the communities in which they reside.



In FY 2012, a total of 164 parolees volunteered at various charitable organizations statewide. Through these volunteer efforts, parolees provided a valuable service to organizations in need of assistance and, upon verification of volunteer service, received a Certification of Completion of Volunteer Service Hours that may be presented to prospective employers as demonstration of positive community involvement and dependability.

VETERAN OFFENDER REENTRY INITIATIVE

Concerned by the growing number of incarcerated and paroled offenders identified in the criminal justice system that have served honorably in the U.S. military, in 2011 Chairman Plousis launched the Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative. The initiative is an effort to identify veterans who have served our country and assist to determine their eligibility for services or entitlements once under parole supervision. The Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative partnered with the American Legion, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, federal, state, local law enforcement, and other agencies to establish a partnership that provides assistance to veteran offenders as they transition from incarceration to the community. These efforts were enhanced by the State Parole Board hosting two regional law enforcement conferences, presentations at two national conferences, and several articles published in national periodicals and journals.

Following the successful regional law enforcement conferences in Camden and Morris Counties in 2011, the Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative focused on enhancing employment opportunities for veteran offenders. The State



Parole Board Chairman James T. Plousis with American Legion Post # 194 Commander Paul Zimarowski and Adjutant Douglas Seaman.

Parole Board joined with the American Legion, the US Chamber of Commerce, and NBC television network to support a national initiative, "Hiring our Heroes." Employment fairs were held at American Legion Post #129 in Toms River (Ocean County), and Post #194 in Florence (Burlington County). The State Parole Board joined the Department of Labor One Stop Centers to host veteran employment fairs in Sparta (Sussex County) and Toms River (Ocean County). Additional employment fairs were sponsored by the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NJESGR) at the Bordentown Armory and the Office of the Secretary of State in Holmdel. The State Parole Board joined with American Legion Post #471 in Iselin (Middlesex County) and the New Jersey car dealers association (CARS) to sponsor a veteran employment event that focused on employment in the New Jersey auto services industry. Employment efforts continue with the utilization of the statewide network of Veteran Interviewers and Disabled Veteran Representatives (DVOPS) and support from the Department of Labor.

As a result of the Veteran Offender Reentry Hotline, the State Parole Board has identified emergency and affordable housing as a critical need of the veteran offenders. The State Parole Board supports every effort to end the plight of homeless veterans. The Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative continues to focus on increasing housing opportunities for veterans under parole supervision as well as for all veterans involved in the criminal justice system. In support of "Housing for Heroes," housing forums were held in both Atlantic and Burlington Counties with the facility and resources provided by the Camden Diocese and Burlington Legion Post #194. The goal of these forums was to bring together federal, state, county, and non-profit agencies and programs that provide housing resources to veterans, and the other agencies that utilize these same providers and resources. The case managers from the Veterans Administration Hospital and the Veterans Justice Officers (VJO's) from the three NJ Veterans Administration Hospitals, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMAVA), the transitional housing programs - Veterans Haven (South) and Veterans Haven (North) - attended both housing events and

offered housing services to the veteran offenders, thereby removing the housing barriers for the veteran offender population.

The Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative joined the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NJESGR) on several occasions, including the NJESGR Law Enforcement "Show of Strength" held in Atlantic County. This event recognized law enforcement agencies that actively support the New Jersey National Guard law enforcement personnel when the officers are deployed or activated for national defense. Efforts such as the NJESGR event and the regional law enforcement training conducted in 2011 promote an understanding of the sacrifices given by all military veterans including those involved in the criminal justice system.

The Veteran Offender Reentry Initiative hotline (609-777-0181) offers referral and assistance to any veteran involved in the criminal justice system. Inmates in the federal prison system can utilize the hotline via email (veteranreentry@spb.state.nj.us) for assistance to contact VA service providers or identify community resources. 85 veterans under State Parole Board supervision, probationers, pretrial offenders, county and state correctional inmates, have received assistance via the Veteran Offender Reentry Hotline. Requests for assistance included accessing Veterans Administration services, employment, counseling, legal services and emergency housing services.

STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The State Parole Board Student Internship Program (SIP) continues to grow in popularity. Now in its second year, over 120 applications were submitted and 62 interns were placed in



Sr. Parole Officer Liborio Ortega (left) and Sgt. David Russo (right) are congratulated by Chairman Plousis for receiving the NJESGR's Seven Seals Award.



State Parole Board interns receive their completion certificates during a ceremony at the Board's Central Office in Trenton.

State Parole Board satellite offices throughout the state with 50 students completing their internships. Work sites included: district parole offices, central office headquarters, contracted community programs, and the Parole Board offices within the institutions. The internship program provides students, from state colleges and universities, the opportunity to gain knowledge and practical "on-the-job" experience while applying academic theories into workplace practices. The students work with experienced supervisors and staff to observe and assist in daily operation activities that helps prepare them for jobs in the criminal justice system and related fields, as well as offers them a platform for networking and building professional relationships. This program has proven to be a valuable resource for both the students and the agency.

In addition to being cost-effective, the students bring new technology and ideas from the classroom; provide agency staff the opportunity to train potential employees; and add diversity in the workforce. The Student Internship Program provides the agency with the opportunity to assist students to develop a "tool box" of skills that will

be beneficial as they build careers in the criminal justice system.

A description of the program can be found on the State Parole Board website's recruitment page under the student internship tab.

The SPB website is located at <http://www.state.nj.us/parole/recruitment.html>.

FEDERAL GRANT INITIATIVES

To ensure that sufficient resources are available to support effective programming and assist the agency to meet the needs of parolees under our supervision, the agency will focus on strengthening the grant writing team to ensure the State Parole Board produces and submits proposals that accurately meet the eligibility criteria, promote best practices and strategies in parole supervision and successfully compete for federal funding.

LOOKING FORWARD

Looking forward to FY 2013, the State Parole Board remains committed to promoting public safety and improving the quality of programs and services that help foster positive change and aid in the rehabilitation of offenders. The State Parole Board seeks to implement evidence-based and emerging practices and strategies to advance sex offender management by supporting leadership training, strategic planning, and collaboration with partnering agencies.

The State Parole Board will continue to seek to identify effective programs and strategies to address the special needs populations including: veteran offenders, female offenders, offenders with co-existing mental health and substance abuse disorders, and juvenile offenders.

NOTES

NOTES



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